

Medicaid eligibility denied; presumption that property was transferred to establish eligibility. *M.C. v. DMAHS*, 94 N.J.A.R.2d (DMA) 1.

Transfer of property to children preserving life estate was prohibited transfer of resources. *C.D. v. Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services*, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (DMA) 91.

Reduction in alimony pursuant to consent order was transfer of resources. *B.S. v. Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services*, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (DMA) 35.

Husband's estate funds were available to pay wife's nursing home costs. *L.S. v. Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services*, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (DMA) 7.

Presumption that transfer of three-family building was for purpose other than to establish Medicaid eligibility was not rebutted. *E.B. v. Hudson County Board of Social Services*, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (DMA) 13.

Penalty period for transfer of resources governed by regulations in effect on date of transfer. *H.P. v. Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services*, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (DMA) 7.

10:71-4.8 Institutional eligibility; resources of a couple

(a) In the determination of resource eligibility for an individual requiring long-term care, the county board of social services shall establish the combined countable resources of a couple as of the first period of continuous institutionalization beginning on or after September 30, 1989. This determination shall be made upon request for a resource assessment in accordance with N.J.A.C. 10:71-4.9 or at the time of application for Medicaid benefits. The total countable resources of the couple shall include all resources owned by either member of the couple individually or together. The county board of social services shall establish a share of the resources to be attributed to the community spouse in accordance with this section. (No community spouse's share of resources may be established if the institutionalized individual's current continuous period of institutionalization began at any time before September 30, 1989.)

1. The community spouse's share of the couple's combined countable resources is based on the couple's countable resources as of the first moment of the first day of the month of the current period of institutionalization beginning on or after September 30, 1989 and shall not exceed \$95,100, as indexed annually in accordance with 42 U.S.C. §1396r-5(g) and published as a notice in the New Jersey Register, and unless authorized in (a)4 or 5 below. The community spouse's share of the couple's resources shall be the greater of:

- i. \$19,020, as indexed annually in accordance with 42 U.S.C. §1396r-5(g) and published as a notice in the New Jersey Register; or
- ii. One half of the couple's combined countable resources.

2. In determining the resource eligibility of the institutionalized spouse, the community spouse's share of the resources is subtracted from couple's total combined resources as of the first moment of the first day of the month

of application for Medicaid. If the remaining resources are less than or equal to \$2,000, the institutionalized spouse is resource eligible. If the remaining resources exceed \$2,000, eligibility may not be established.

i. In the case of an individual whose eligibility for institutional care is determined in accordance with the rules applicable for New Jersey Care (see N.J.A.C. 10:72 et seq.), resource eligibility will exist when the couple's combined resources, less the community spouse's share of the resources, are equal to or less than \$4,000.

3. To the extent that the community spouse's share of the combined resources are not already owned by the community spouse, the ownership of the community spouse's share of the resources must be transferred to the community spouse within 90 days of a determination of eligibility for institutional Medicaid services. The CBOSS may extend the transfer period if individual circumstances warrant a longer period to affect the transfer. Resources not transferred by the end of the 90-day period (or extension) shall be counted in the determination of eligibility for the institutionalized individual.

i. Eligibility for the institutionalized individual shall be established pending the actual transfer of the resources if he or she attests, in writing, that he or she intends to transfer the community spouse's share of the resources to the community spouse.

4. If a court of competent jurisdiction has ordered that resources be transferred to the community spouse in an amount higher than that authorized in (a)1 above, the higher court-ordered amount shall be recognized as the community spouse's share. Any resource transferred under such a court order shall not be subject to the resource transfer penalty described at N.J.A.C. 10:71-4.7.

5. If, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 10:71-5.7(d), additional resources have been authorized to be set aside for the community spouse in order to provide for a sufficient income maintenance level, such additional resources are not subject to the limitation in this section on the community spouse's share of the couple's combined resources. Any resource transferred to the community spouse under this provision shall not be subject to the resource transfer provision described at N.J.A.C. 10:71-4.7.

6. For purposes of this section, an institutionalized individual does not include any individual who is not likely to remain in a Title XIX facility for a period of 30 consecutive days. If a physician has not certified that the individual's stay in the facility is expected to be a period of 30 or more consecutive days, that individual's Medicaid eligibility will be determined as if he or she continued to reside in the community until he or she has been in a Title XIX facility (or a combination of Title XIX facilities) for a period of 30 consecutive days.

7. For purposes of this section, a continuous period of institutionalization means 30 consecutive days of institu-

tional care in a medical institution, and/or Medicaid funded home and community-based waiver services. Continuity is broken by absences from the institution for 30 consecutive days or the non-receipt of home or community based services for 30 consecutive days.

8. For purposes of determining the community spouse's share of the couple's resources only, countable resources of a couple shall include all resources not subject to exclusion under N.J.A.C. 10:71-4.4, except that one automobile shall be excluded without regard to the dollar limits set forth at N.J.A.C. 10:71-4.4(b)2 and personal effects and household goods shall be excluded without regard to the dollar limits set forth at N.J.A.C. 10:71-4.4(b)3.

9. In determining retroactive eligibility (the three-month period immediately preceding the month of application) based on the first Medicaid application in a continuous period of institutionalization, the community spouse's share of the resources shall be deducted from the couple's combined total resources. If the institutionalized individual subsequently files another Medicaid application for the same continuous period of institutionalization, retroactive eligibility will be based on all resources actually owned by the institutionalized individual.

New Rule, R.1991 d.32, effective January 22, 1991.

See: 22 N.J.R. 7(a), 23 N.J.R. 215(b).

Emergency Amendment, R.1992 d.84, effective January 22, 1992, operative January 1, 1992, (expires March 22, 1992).

See: 24 N.J.R. 651(a).

Resource eligibility revised upward.

Adopted concurrent amendment, R.1992 d.191, effective April 20, 1992.

See: 24 N.J.R. 651(a), 24 N.J.R. 1498(b).

Provisions of emergency amendment, R.1992 d.84, readopted without change.

Amended by R.1993 d.402, effective August 16, 1993.

See: 25 N.J.R. 1818(a), 25 N.J.R. 3786(a).

Amended by R.1994 d.428, effective August 15, 1994.

See: 26 N.J.R. 1754(a), 26 N.J.R. 3478(a).

Amended by R.1996 d.46, effective January 16, 1996.

See: 27 N.J.R. 3668(a), 28 N.J.R. 291(a).

In (a)I and (a)Ii resource eligibility revised upward.

Amended by R.1996 d.466, effective October 7, 1996.

See: 28 N.J.R. 2779(c), 28 N.J.R. 4480(a).

Amended by R.2000 d.415, effective October 16, 2000.

See: 32 N.J.R. 2565(a), 32 N.J.R. 3844(a).

In (a), substituted "board of social services" for "welfare agency" in the introductory paragraph, substituted "\$84,120" for "\$76,740" in the introductory paragraph of 1, substituted "\$16,824" for "\$15,348" in 1i, and substituted "CBOSS" for "CWA" throughout.

Amended by R.2001 d.199, effective June 18, 2001.

See: 32 N.J.R. 2021(a), 33 N.J.R. 2195(a).

In (a), rewrote the third and fourth sentences of the introductory paragraph, substituted "\$84,120, as indexed annually in accordance with 42 U.S.C. § 1396r-5(g) and published as a notice in the New Jersey Register, and" for "\$74,740" in 1, and rewrote 1i.

Amended by R.2004 d.401, effective November 1, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 922(b), 36 N.J.R. 4982(a).

In (a)1, substituted "\$92,760" for "\$84,120" in the introductory paragraph, and substituted "\$18,552" for "\$16,824" in i.

Amended by R.2006 d.133, effective November 6, 2006.

See: 37 N.J.R. 3774(a), 37 N.J.R. 4505(a), 38 N.J.R. 4712(a).

In (a)1, substituted "\$95,100" for "\$92,760"; and in (a)1i, substituted "\$19,020" for "\$18,552".

Public Notice: Notice of Increase in the Community Spouse's Share of a Couple's Combined Countable Resources.

See: 39 N.J.R. 705(b).

Public Notice: Notice of Increase in the Community Spouse's Share of a Couple's Combined Countable Resources.

See: 40 N.J.R. 2295(a).

Case Notes

Income subject to transfer from an institutionalized spouse was not limited to the income he was earning as of the date when the couple's resources were allocated for purposes of determining Medicaid Only eligibility. The other spouse's minimum monthly maintenance needs allowance deficit could be made up with the Social Security disability income the institutionalized spouse was reasonably expected to earn thereafter. *N.E. v. New Jersey Div. of Med. Assistance & Health Servs.*, 399 N.J. Super. 566, 945 A.2d 109, 2008 N.J. Super. LEXIS 78 (App.Div. 2008).

Claimant was not eligible for Medicaid Only Benefits for nursing home costs because, as of the first day of the month of the current period of institutionalization, his resources exceeded the maximum amount permitted by N.J.A.C. 10:71-4.5(c). *N.E. v. New Jersey Div. of Med. Assistance & Health Servs.*, 399 N.J. Super. 566, 945 A.2d 109, 2008 N.J. Super. LEXIS 78 (App.Div. 2008).

Medicaid eligibility when one spouse is institutionalized and the other is living in the community is determined by reference to total assets owned by the couple at time of application, and amount of exempt assets attributable to community spouse that was previously established at time of institutionalization, plus \$2,000 of assets attributable to institutionalized spouse, constitute the asset cap that cannot be exceeded at the time of application, unless that cap was increased to reflect a rise in the consumer price index. *A.K. v. Div. of Med. Assistance*, 350 N.J. Super. 175, 794 A.2d 835.

Federal Medicaid statute requiring that state's methodology for determining resource eligibility of medically needy person be no more restrictive than for categorically needy person required exclusion of husband's individual retirement account from computation of wife's resources for purposes of determining eligibility. *Mistrick v. Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services*, 299 N.J. Super. 76, 690 A.2d 651 (A.D.1997).

Individual Retirement account (IRA) in husband's name is includable resource for purposes of determining a wife's Medicaid eligibility when wife enters a nursing home but husband remains in the community, despite claim that the "no more restrictive" provision excluding IRAs from supplemental security income (SSI) eligibility determinations controlled; the "no more restrictive" provision was superseded by Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act of 1988 (MCCA). *Mistrick v. Division of Medical Assistance & Health Services*, 154 N.J. 158, 712 A.2d 188 (N.J. 1998).

Resources of a Medicaid applicant's ex-wife that were acquired during the couple's 23-year separation but prior to their Pennsylvania divorce could not be considered as available to the applicant for the purpose of determining the countable resources of the couple pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10:71-4.8; the applicant's rights to those resources were determined by Pennsylvania law, and a valid Pennsylvania divorce decree was issued indicating that the applicant had no legal rights to those resources. *S.P. v. DMAHS, OAL Dkt. No. HMA 10019-07*, 2008 N.J. AGEN LEXIS 304, Initial Decision (April 14, 2008).

Initial Decision (2007 N.J. AGEN LEXIS 189) adopted, which concluded that in calculating the Community Spouse Resource Allowance, repayments on home equity loans or lines of credit are not deductible as a shelter expense unless there is a direct relationship to preserving the marital home, such as when the loan proceeds are used for major repairs or capital improvements necessary to protect the home. *A.F. v. DMAHS, OAL Dkt. No. HMA 12301-06*, 2007 N.J. AGEN LEXIS 330, Final Decision (May 24, 2007).

Custodial bank accounts of Medicaid applicant's children were not available to applicant or her husband and thus were not countable resources in determining applicant's eligibility for the Nursing Home Medicaid program for the year in question. *L.A.S. v. Union County Div.*

the county board of social services within 20 days of notification of the transfer penalty.

1. For the purposes of this chapter, undue hardship shall be considered to exist when:

i. The application of the transfer of assets provisions would deprive the applicant/beneficiary of medical care such that his or her health or his or her life would be endangered. Undue hardship may also exist when application of the transfer of assets provisions would deprive the individual of food, clothing, shelter, or other necessities of life; and

ii. The applicant/beneficiary can irrefutably demonstrate the transferred assets are beyond his or her control and that the assets cannot be recovered. The applicant/beneficiary shall demonstrate that he or she made good faith efforts, including exhaustion of remedies available at law or in equity, to recover the assets transferred.

2. Undue hardship shall not exist when the application of a transfer penalty merely causes the applicant/beneficiary an inconvenience or restricts his or her lifestyle.

3. In the event that a waiver of undue hardship is denied, neither the Department of Human Services, the Department of Health and Senior Services, nor the county boards of social services shall have any obligation to take any action to assure that payment of services is provided during the penalty period.

4. If the request for undue hardship consideration is denied by the CBOSS, the CBOSS shall notify the applicant of the denial and that the applicant may request a fair hearing in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 10:49-10.

New Rule, R.2001 d.199, effective June 18, 2001.

See: 32 N.J.R. 2021(a), 33 N.J.R. 2195(a).

Petition for Rulemaking.

See: 35 N.J.R. 1456(a), 2532(b).

Amended by R.2004 d.401, effective November 1, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 922(b), 36 N.J.R. 4982(a).

In (m), rewrote 1, and substituted "\$15,000" for "\$12,000" throughout 4.

Amended by R.2006 d.133, effective November 6, 2006.

See: 37 N.J.R. 3774(a), 37 N.J.R. 4505(a), 38 N.J.R. 4712(a).

In (m)1, substituted "2005" for "2003" and substituted "\$6,525" for "\$6,050"; and deleted (p)2i.

Petition for Rulemaking.

See: 39 N.J.R. 2157(a), 2660(a), 4453(a).

Law Review and Journal Commentaries

Saving the family home. Harold L. Grodberg, 164 N.J.L.J. 1166 (2001).

Case Notes

Medicaid applicants' challenge to state-payback requirement for community spouse annuity trusts (CSATs), whereby state was required to be named first beneficiary of trust assets upon death of spouse residing in community if it had paid benefits on behalf of institutionalized spouse, was moot, where, upon its decision to count CSAT assets in determining Medicaid eligibility, state no longer imposed state-payback condition. Johnson v. Guhl, 357 F.3d 403 (3d Cir. N.J. 2004).

Applicant was not entitled to Medicaid assistance where she voluntarily reduced her pension income but remained able to rescind the reduction; thus, the original monthly pension benefit of \$556.34 was available to the applicant and was properly counted in the determination of Medicaid eligibility. J.C. v. DMAHS, OAL Dkt. No. HMA 6950-07, 2008 N.J. AGEN LEXIS 39, Initial Decision (January 17, 2008).

There is a clear conflict between federal law (42 U.S.C.A. 1396p(c)) and the New Jersey regulation (N.J.A.C. 10:71-4.10(m)) because the regulation begins the penalty period for a transfer of assets for less than fair market value with the month of the transfer, whereas federal law imposes the penalty at either the month of the transfer, the month after the transfer, or the date upon which the individual becomes eligible, whichever is later. The Division correctly applied the current federal law to petitioner's Medicaid Only application because the courts have held that states participating in a federal entitlement program must conform to federal statutes and regulations. E.B. v. DMAHS, OAL Dkt. No. HMA 2289-07, 2007 N.J. AGEN LEXIS 605, Initial Decision (August 23, 2007).

Medicaid applicant's irrevocable trust arrangement was void because it violated New Jersey's public policy against shielding assets to become Medicaid eligible, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 30:4D-6(f), and therefore the trust res was considered an available resource. Because public policy considered the trust null and void, it was as if the trust assets were available to the applicant throughout the duration of the trust and at the time of the Medicaid application made on February 8, 2006; thus, the transfer of assets did not occur until February 8, 2006, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10:71-4.10(m)(1), and the penalty period for the transfer began on that date. J.S. v. DMAHS, OAL Dkt. No. HMA 4896-06, 2006 N.J. AGEN LEXIS 1054, Initial Decision (December 19, 2006).

Recipient of homecare assistance sold her home to her grandson, and kept a leasehold in an apartment in the house for the term of her life. As the nature of the recipient's leasehold interest was not explained by the lease or by extrinsic evidence, whether she received fair market value for her leasehold interest, and thus for the house itself, could not be determined from the record for purposes of determining her continued eligibility for homecare assistance benefits. B.D. v. Division of Med. Assistance & Health Servs., 397 N.J. Super. 384, 937 A.2d 980, 2007 N.J. Super. LEXIS 366 (App.Div. 2007).

In determining a claimant's eligibility for benefits, the Director of the New Jersey Department of Human Services has the expertise to determine the significance and sufficiency of various types of asset transfers, and when the Director's findings are supported by credible evidence and correct legal principles, they are entitled to deference by a reviewing court. B.D. v. Division of Med. Assistance & Health Servs., 397 N.J. Super. 384, 937 A.2d 980, 2007 N.J. Super. LEXIS 366 (App.Div. 2007).

Decision of the Director of Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services (DMAHS), which upheld the imposition of a Medicaid transfer penalty based on an unequal equitable distribution to a non-institutionalized spouse of a Medicaid applicant in a bed and board divorce action, was reversed as there existed no regulation that authorized such a decision; furthermore, the DMAHS's in-house rule imposing such a penalty for a transfer of assets as equitable distribution of more than 50 percent to the non-institutionalized spouse was contrary to both New Jersey public policy and the law of equitable distribution. W.T. v. DMAHS, 391 N.J. Super. 25, 916 A.2d 1066, 2007 N.J. Super. LEXIS 59 (App.Div. 2007).

10:71-4.11 Trusts

(a) For purposes of this subchapter, effective June 18, 2001, a trust is any legal instrument, device, or arrangement which is similar to a trust, in which a grantor transfers property to an individual or entity with fiduciary obligations (considered to be a trustee for purposes of this section). The grantor transfers the property with the intention that it be held, managed, or administered by the trustee for the benefit

of the grantor or others. For the purposes of this chapter, a trust shall include, but not be limited to, escrow accounts, annuities, investment accounts, and other similar devices managed by an individual or entity with fiduciary obligations.

(b) The standards set forth in this section shall apply to trusts without regard to:

1. The purposes for which the trust is established;
2. Whether the trustee(s) has discretion or exercises such discretion under the trust;
3. Any restrictions on when or whether distribution can be made from the trust; or
4. Any restrictions on the use of distributions from the trust.

(c) Definitions, for the purposes of this section, shall be as follows:

1. A grantor shall be any individual who creates a trust. This section shall apply only to situations in which the grantor is:

- i. The individual;
- ii. The individual's spouse;
- iii. A person, including a court or administrative body, with legal authority to act in place of, or on behalf of, the individual or the individual's spouse; or
- iv. A person, including a court or administrative body, acting at the direction or upon the request of the individual or the individual's spouse.

2. A revocable trust is a trust which can, under State law, be revoked by the grantor. A trust, which provides that the trust can be only modified or terminated by a court, is considered to be a revocable trust, since the grantor (or his or her representative) can petition the court to terminate the trust. Also, a trust that declares itself to be irrevocable, but which terminates upon conditions relating to the grantor during his or her lifetime, shall be, for the purposes of this section, considered to be revocable. For example, a trust may require a trustee to terminate a trust and disburse the funds to the grantor if the grantor leaves a nursing facility. Such a trust shall be considered to be revocable.

3. An irrevocable trust is a trust which cannot, in any way, be revoked by the grantor.

4. A beneficiary is any individual or individuals designated in the trust instrument as benefiting in some way from the trust. The term "beneficiary" shall not include the trustee or any other individual whose benefit consists only of reasonable fees or payments for managing or administering the trust. The beneficiary can be the grantor, another individual, or individuals, or any combination of any of these parties.

5. For purposes of this chapter, a payment from a trust shall be any disbursement from the corpus of the trust or from income generated by the trust which benefits the party receiving it. A payment may include actual cash, as well as noncash or property disbursements, such as the right to use or occupy real property.

(d) Individuals to whom the trust provisions apply shall include any individual who establishes a trust and who is an applicant or beneficiary of Medicaid. An individual shall be considered to have established a trust if any of his or her assets, regardless of the amount, were used to form part or all of the corpus of the trust and if any of the parties described as a grantor in (c)1 above established the trust, other than by will.

1. When the corpus of a trust includes assets of another person or persons not described in (c)1 above, as well as assets of the individual, the rules apply only to the portion of the trust attributable to the assets of the individual. Thus, in determining countable income and resources in the trust for eligibility and post-eligibility purposes, the county board of social services shall prorate any amounts of income and resources, based on the proportion of the individual's assets in the trust to those of other persons.

2. When the corpus of a trust includes assets of either an institutionalized spouse as defined in N.J.A.C. 10:71-4.7(b)3 or a community spouse, this section shall apply to the portion of the trust attributable to either spouse for the purposes of determining eligibility for the institutionalized spouse.

(e) Treatment of trusts, for purposes of determining Medicaid eligibility, shall be dependent on the characteristics of the trust. The look-back period for evaluation of resource transfer shall be 60 months. The following are the rules for consideration of various kinds of trusts:

1. In the case of a revocable trust:

- i. The entire corpus of the trust shall be counted as a resource available to the individual;
- ii. Any payments from the trust made to or for the benefit of the individual shall be counted as income (unless otherwise excludable, see N.J.A.C. 10:71-5.3); and
- iii. Any payments from the trust which are not made to or for the benefit of the individual shall be considered assets disposed of for less than fair market value (see N.J.A.C. 10:71-4.10).

2. In an irrevocable trust from which payment can be made under the terms of the trust to or for the benefit of the individual from all or a portion of the trust, the following shall apply to that trust or that portion of the trust:

- i. Payments from income or from the corpus made to or for the benefit of the individual shall be treated as income to the individual unless otherwise excludable (see N.J.A.C. 10:71-5.3);

ii. Income on the corpus of the trust which could be paid to or for the benefit of the individual shall be counted as a resource available to the individual;

iii. The portion of the corpus that could be paid to or for the benefit of the individual shall be treated as a resource available to the individual; and

iv. Payments from income or from the corpus that are made, but not to or for the benefit of the individual, shall be treated as a transfer of assets for less than fair market value (see N.J.A.C. 10:71-4.10).

3. In the case of an irrevocable trust from which payments from all or a portion of the trust cannot, under any circumstances, be made to or for the benefit of the individual, all of the trust, or any such portion or income thereof, shall be treated as a transfer of assets for less than fair market value (see N.J.A.C. 10:71-4.10).

i. In treating these portions as a transfer of assets, the date of transfer shall be considered to be the date the trust was established, or, if later, the date on which the right of payment to the individual was foreclosed.

ii. For transfer of assets purposes, in determining the value of the portion of the trust which cannot be paid to the individual, amounts that have been paid, for whatever purpose, shall not be subtracted from the value of the trust on the date the trust was created or, if later, the date that payment to the individual was foreclosed. The

value of the transferred amount shall be no less than the value on the date the trust is established or on the date that payment is foreclosed. If additional funds are added to this portion of the trust, those funds shall be treated as a new transfer of assets or less than fair market value.

4. Payments made from a revocable or irrevocable trust to or on behalf of the individual shall include payments of any sort, including an amount from the corpus or income produced by the corpus, paid to another person or entity such that the individual derives some benefit from the payment. For example, such payments may include purchase of clothing or other items, such as a radio or television, for the individual. Such payments may also include payment for services the individual may require, or care, whether medical or personal, that the individual may need. Payments to maintain a home shall also be considered payments for the benefit of the individual.

i. When a payment to or for the benefit of the individual is made which would not be considered income in the eligibility process, then the payment shall not be counted as income to the individual under this section. For example, payments made on behalf of an individual for medical care are not counted in determining income eligibility for Medicaid, and are therefore not counted as income under these trust provisions.

rated over three months when the payment exceeds the individual's monthly deficit, except as follows:

i. No portion of a cash reward provided to any individual by the Division for providing information about fraud and/or abuse in any program administered in whole or in part by the Division shall be included in the computation of income for financial eligibility purposes.

12. Support and maintenance furnished in-kind (community cases): Support and maintenance encompasses the provision to an individual of his or her needs for food, clothing, and shelter at no cost or reduced value. Persons determined to be "living in the household of another" in accordance with N.J.A.C. 10:71-5.6 shall not be considered to be receiving in-kind support and maintenance as the income eligibility levels have been reduced in recognition of such receipt. Persons not determined to be "living in the household of another" who receive in-kind support and maintenance shall be considered to have income in the amount of:

\$232.33 for an individual

\$338.67 for a couple

i. In the event the individual/couple can demonstrate that the actual value of in-kind support and maintenance is less than the assigned value, the lesser value shall be counted as unearned income.

ii. The income levels in (a)12 above shall be revised annually to reflect the annual cost-of-living adjustment to the SSI payment standard made by the Social Security Administration in accordance with 42 U.S.C. § 1382f. The income level revisions to (a)12 above will be published annually as a notice of administrative change in the New Jersey Register.

13. Support and maintenance furnished in-kind (other living situations):

i. Title XIX facilities: In-kind support and maintenance is not counted in cases in which the individual is considered institutionalized for program purposes (i.e., the individual's eligibility is determined under the Medicaid "Cap").

ii. Private nonprofit domiciliary care facility: The value of in-kind support and maintenance provided an individual in a nonprofit residential care facility is excluded when all the following conditions are met:

(1) The facility is not a public facility. A public facility is one which is the responsibility of a governmental unit or over which a governmental unit exercises administrative control.

(2) The facility, or the distinct portion in which the individual resides, is neither a Title XIX in-kind nor an institution for educational or vocational training.

(3) The facility is tax-exempt under Section 501(c) or (d) of the Internal Revenue Code.

(4) The facility (or organization controlling it) provides support and maintenance to the individual but does not receive payment for that part to be excluded or receives such payment from a private nonprofit organization which is also tax exempt under Section 501(c) or (d) of the Internal Revenue Code.

(5) The nonprofit facility or nonprofit organization has not undertaken an express obligation to furnish full support and maintenance to the individual. An express obligation to provide full support and maintenance exists when an institution agrees to provide lifetime care in return for a specified lump sum payment and there is no requirement for any current or future payment. An express obligation also exists if, as a result of the membership of the individual or of a relative, in an organization (fraternal or religious order, union, etc.) there exists a written document requiring the facility to provide lifetime care regardless of payment provided.

(6) If the criteria in (a)13ii(1)-(5) above are not met, the value of support and maintenance is determined in accordance with (a)13iii below.

iii. Other nonmedical facilities:

(1) Facility is proprietary (private for-profit) or private non-profit and no third party pays: The value of in-kind support and maintenance is excluded from income if it is provided by such a facility, no third party payment is made for it, and:

(A) The individual makes some payment which the facility accepts as payment in full (even though its usual charge may be higher); or

(B) The individual contracts a written indebtedness to the facility for his/her support and maintenance and the facility accepts the amount of the debt plus the individual's payment, if any, as payment in full.

(2) Facility if proprietary or private nonprofit and third party pays: When a proprietary (private for-profit) or private nonprofit facility provides support and maintenance to an individual because a third party pays the facility on that individual's behalf, that individual is receiving in-kind support and maintenance. The value of the in-kind support and maintenance is determined in accordance with (a)12 above.

(3) Other situations regardless of third-party payment: In other types of facilities, support and maintenance provided by that facility is unearned income to the individual in accordance with (a)12 above.

(b) Countable income: Income remaining after appropriate income exclusions shall be applied toward the applicable in-

come eligibility standard. The applicant's living arrangement affects the method of treatment of income and its relationship to the standards as stated in the variations appearing below.

1. Applicant/beneficiary living alone: If the applicant/beneficiary lives alone, only his or her countable income shall be applied to the appropriate income standard.

2. Applicant/beneficiary couple: In the case of an applicant/beneficiary couple, living together, the total amount of husband's and wife's countable income shall be combined and applied to the appropriate income eligibility standard for a couple. Such individuals will continue to have their countable income combined until they have been separated for a period of six months.

i. One member of couple institutionalized: When one member of an applicant/beneficiary couple is institutionalized and the other remains in the community, no income of the community spouse will be used in the determination of income eligibility beginning in the month of admission into a Title XIX facility.

ii. Institutionalized couple: When an applicant/recipient couple is institutionalized in the same facility, the gross income of each individual is combined and applied to an amount equal to two times the Medicaid "Cap." If, however, the applicant/recipient couple is institutionalized in separate facilities, the income of each is applied individually to the Medicaid "Cap."

3. Applicant/beneficiary living with ineligible spouse: if the applicant/beneficiary lives with an ineligible spouse, the income of the ineligible spouse is deemed to the applicant/beneficiary (see N.J.A.C. 10:71-5.5). Such individual's income shall continue to be deemed until the husband and wife have been separated for one month. At such time the individuals will be considered to be living alone and deeming shall cease.

i. Effect of institutionalization: Income of the community spouse shall not be considered in the determination of income eligibility of the institutionalized individual beginning with the month of admission into a Title XIX facility.

4. Applicant/beneficiary unmarried and under 18 years of age, living with parents: If the applicant/recipient is an unmarried child under 18 years of age who lives with his or her parents (including stepparents), the income of the parents is deemed to the child (see N.J.A.C. 10:71-5.5(c)3). Such deeming will cease when a child has ceased living with his/her parents for a period of one calendar month.

i. Child not living with parents due to institutionalization: If a physician has certified that the child's duration of stay in a Title XIX facility (or a combination of such facilities) is expected to be a full calendar month or more, such child shall be considered to be not living with his/her parents and deeming shall cease at the time of such certification.

Emergency Amendment, R.1981 d.276, effective July 1, 1981.

See: 13 N.J.R. 501(a).

Adopted concurrent proposal, R.1981 d.385, effective September 24, 1981.

See: 13 N.J.R. 501(a), 13 N.J.R. 773(a).

Substantially amended.

Amended by R.1982 d.314, effective August 31, 1982.

See: 14 N.J.R. 758(a), 14 N.J.R. 1058(a).

Amended by R.1983 d.381, effective August 30, 1983.

See: 15 N.J.R. 1187(a), 15 N.J.R. 1585(a).

Originally filed as an emergency rule R.1983 d.289, effective July 1, 1983.

As amended as emergency rule R. 1983 d.593, effective December 19, 1983, operative January 1, 1983.

See: 15 N.J.R. 1733(a), 15 N.J.R. 2171(a).

Readopted, R.1984 d.566, effective November 28, 1984 (amendments effective January 1, 1985).

See: 16 N.J.R. 2845(a), 16 N.J.R. 3451(a).

Previously filed as emergency rule R.1984 d.289. Raised amounts of unearned income.

Emergency Amendment R.1985 d.714, effective December 27, 1985 (operative January 1, 1986, expires February 24, 1985).

See: 18 N.J.R. 215(a).

Unearned income raised.

Amended by R.1986 d.74, effective February 24, 1986.

See: 18 N.J.R. 215(a), 18 N.J.R. 565(a).

Emergency amendment, R.1987 d.78, effective December 29, 1986 (operative January 1, 1987; expires February 27, 1987).

See: 19 N.J.R. 245(a).

Unearned income raised.

Adoption of concurrent proposal, R.1987 d.174, effective April 20, 1987.

See: 19 N.J.R. 245(a), 19 N.J.R. 646(b).

Emergency amendment, R.1988 d.55, effective January 4, 1988 (operative January 4, 1988, expires March 4, 1988).

See: 20 N.J.R. 207(a).

Unearned income raised.

Adopted concurrent proposal, R.1988 d.193, effective May 2, 1988.

See: 20 N.J.R. 207(a), 20 N.J.R. 985(a).

Previously filed as an Emergency Rule.

Emergency amendment, R.1989 d.57, effective December 29, 1988 (operative January 1, 1989, expires February 27, 1989).

See: 21 N.J.R. 207(a).

Individual raised from \$138.00 to \$142.67 and couple raised from \$197.33 to \$204.33.

Emergency amendment expired February 27, 1989. Concurrent proposal adopted February 28, 1989, as R.1989 d.174, effective March 20, 1989.

See: 21 N.J.R. 217(a), 21 N.J.R. 763(a).

Emergency provisions retained.

Emergency amendment R.1990 d.55, effective December 26, 1989, operative January 1, 1990 (expires February 24, 1990).

See: 22 N.J.R. 251(a).

Includable income limits raised at (a)12.

Adopted concurrent proposal, R.1990 d.177, effective February 23, 1990.

See: 22 N.J.R. 251(a), 22 N.J.R. 954(a).

Provisions of emergency amendment R.1990 d.55 readopted without change.

Amended by R.1991 d.32, effective January 22, 1991.

See: 22 N.J.R. 7(a), 23 N.J.R. 215(b).

Deleted text in N.J.A.C. 10:71-5.4(b)2i concerning includable income when one member of a couple is institutionalized and added statement establishing new guidelines. Deleted text in N.J.A.C. 10:71-5.4(b)3i concerning physician's certification and added statement establishing new includable income standard.

Emergency amendment, R.1991 d.37, effective December 31, 1990 (operative January 1, 1991).

See: 23 N.J.R. 233(a).

Increase in Medicaid Only eligibility computation amounts at (a)12.

Adopted Concurrent Proposal, R.1991 d.169, effective March 1, 1991.

See: 23 N.J.R. 233(a), 23 N.J.R. 1007(a).

Provisions of emergency amendment R.1991 d.37 readopted without change.

Emergency Amendment, R.1992 d.84, effective January 22, 1992, operative January 1, 1992, (expires March 22, 1992).
See: 24 N.J.R. 651(a).

Increase in Medicaid Only eligibility computation amounts at (a)12.

Amended by R.1993 d.402, effective August 16, 1993.

See: 25 N.J.R. 1818(a), 25 N.J.R. 3786(a).

Amended by R.1994 d.428, effective August 15, 1994.

See: 26 N.J.R. 1754(a), 26 N.J.R. 3478(a).

Amended by R.1996 d.46, effective January 16, 1996.

See: 27 N.J.R. 3668(a), 28 N.J.R. 291(a).

In (a)12 imputed income amounts revised upward.

Amended by R.1996 d.466, effective October 7, 1996.

See: 28 N.J.R. 2779(c), 28 N.J.R. 4480(a).

Amended by R.2000 d.415, effective October 16, 2000.

See: 32 N.J.R. 2565(a), 32 N.J.R. 3844(a).

Substituted "beneficiary" for "recipient" throughout; and (a)12, increased dollar amount from \$176.67 to \$190.67 for an individual and \$255.00 to \$276.33 for a couple.

Amended by R.2002 d.124, effective April 15, 2002.

See: 33 N.J.R. 4188(a), 34 N.J.R. 1546(a).

In (a)11, added ", except as follows" at the end of the introductory paragraph and added i.

Amended by R.2004 d.401, effective November 1, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 922(b), 36 N.J.R. 4982(a).

In (a)12, substituted "\$208.00" for "\$190.67" and "\$302.00" for "\$276.33" in the introductory paragraph and added ii.

Amended by R.2006 d.133, effective November 6, 2006.

See: 37 N.J.R. 3774(a), 37 N.J.R. 4505(a), 38 N.J.R. 4712(a).

In (a)12, substituted "\$213.00" for "\$208.00" and "\$309.66" for "\$302.00".

Administrative change.

See: 40 N.J.R. 2276(a).

Case Notes

Definition of "available income" for Medicaid eligibility; valid. Estate of G.E. v. Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services, 271 N.J.Super. 229, 638 A.2d 833 (A.D.1994).

Pension was "available income" for Medicaid eligibility even though payment ordered to wife. Estate of G.E. v. Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services, 271 N.J.Super. 229, 638 A.2d 833 (A.D.1994).

Regulation governing when income is available did not constitute exercise by the state of its authority to adopt less restrictive income standards than federal standards. Estate of G.E. v. Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services, 271 N.J.Super. 229, 638 A.2d 833 (A.D.1994).

Voluntarily waived state pension benefits would be "available income" in evaluating Medicaid eligibility. M.R. v. State Dept. of Human Services, Div. of Medical Assistance and Health Services, 268 N.J.Super. 586, 634 A.2d 143 (A.D.1993).

A Social Security check received by Medicaid recipient, is not a resource for inclusion in program eligibility determination (citing former N.J.A.C. 10:94-4.19 and 4.42). Gilfone v. State, 165 N.J.Super. 186, 397 A.2d 1120 (App.Div.1979).

Applicant was not entitled to Medicaid assistance where she voluntarily reduced her pension income but remained able to rescind the reduction; thus, the original monthly pension benefit of \$556.34 was available to the applicant and was properly counted in the determination of Medicaid eligibility. J.C. v. DMAHS, OAL Dkt. No. HMA 6950-07, 2008 N.J. AGEN LEXIS 39, Initial Decision (January 17, 2008).

Receipt of out of state unemployment insurance benefits precluded recipient from receiving medicaid extension. J.M. v. Cape May County Welfare Agency, 94 N.J.A.R.2d (DEA) 9.

10:71-5.5 Deeming of income

(a) When an applicant/beneficiary is an adult residing in the same household with his or her ineligible spouse or is a child residing in the same household with his or her parent(s) or spouse of the parent, the income of the ineligible spouse or parent(s) is considered in the determination of financial eligibility. The amount included as income to the applicant/beneficiary, whether or not it is actually available, is called deemed income and is computed as described in N.J.A.C. 10:71-5.5(c), (d), (e) and (f).

1. Child: For the purpose of this section, a child is an individual who is not married and is under the age of 18 (see N.J.A.C. 10:71-5.3(a)15i regarding earnings of a child who is a student). Additionally, deeming of parental income to a blind or disabled child ceases when the child reaches age 18.

2. Parent: A parent, for deeming purposes, is a natural or adoptive parent or stepparent living in the same household as an applicant/beneficiary child. However, death or divorce of the natural or adoptive parent terminates deeming responsibility of a stepparent.

(b) Items not included in deeming: In determining the income of an ineligible spouse, parent and/or spouse of a parent, or income of any ineligible children in the household, the following are not included as income:

1. Any assistance based on need and any income considered in the determination of the amount of such assistance;
2. That portion of any grant, scholarship, or fellowship, used to pay the cost of tuitions and fees at an educational institution or costs of vocational technical training designed to prepare the individual for gainful employment;
3. Amounts received for foster care of an ineligible child;
4. The value of food stamps or U.S. Department of Agriculture donated foods (e.g., supplemental food programs);
5. Home produce grown for personal consumption;
6. Refund of taxes paid on income, real property, or food purchased by the family;
7. Such income used to comply with the terms of court-ordered support and support payments pursuant to Title IV-D of the Social Security Act;
8. The value of in-kind support and maintenance furnished to the ineligible spouse, ineligible parent(s) or ineligible spouse of a parent, and ineligible children in the household;
9. Income and benefits received under certain Federal programs described in Section N.J.A.C. 10:71-5.3(a)7;

10. The earned income of an ineligible child who is a student (subject to the limitations of N.J.A.C. 10:71-5.3(a)15, unless the child actually makes the income available to the family);

11. Income necessary for a plan to achieve self-support but only if the spouse's or parental income is actually being used according to the plan to achieve self-support.

(c) Deeming of income from spouse to spouse: If the applicant's/beneficiary's own countable income, as determined in accordance with N.J.A.C. 10:71-5.2, less appropriate exclusions in N.J.A.C. 10:71-5.3, exceeds the applicable Medicaid Only income eligibility standard in Table B at N.J.A.C. 10:71-5.6(c)5, the applicant/beneficiary is financially ineligible for Medicaid Only based on his or her own countable income, and there is no deeming. However, if the applicant's/beneficiary's own countable income renders him or her financially eligible for Medicaid Only, the following steps shall be used to compute deemed income:

1. Step 1: Calculate separately the ineligible spouse's earned and unearned income, less any income excluded in accordance with N.J.A.C. 10:71-5.5(b). Do not combine the two totals.

2. Step 2: Determine the living allowance for each ineligible child not receiving public assistance, by subtracting the child's countable income from the amount of the living allowance for an ineligible child in Table A, Figure 1.

3. Step 3: Subtract the living allowance for each ineligible child, determined in Step 2 above, from the unearned income of the ineligible spouse. Subtract any remaining living allowance from the earned income of the ineligible spouse. For any ineligible child receiving public assistance, no living allowance may be subtracted.

4. Step 4: If the total remaining income (earned plus unearned) of the ineligible spouse is equal to or less than the appropriate remaining income amount in Table A, Figure 2, no income is available for deeming to the applicant/beneficiary. The deeming process stops.

i. Determine the beneficiary's income eligibility for Medicaid Only by comparing his or her own countable income to the appropriate Medicaid Only income eligibility standard in Table B at N.J.A.C. 10:71-5.6(c)5.

5. Step 5: If Step 4 above does not apply, and the ineligible spouse's remaining total income (earned plus unearned) exceeds the appropriate remaining income amount in Table A, Figure 2, the deeming process continues and the applicant/beneficiary and his or her ineligible spouse are treated as a couple. The following deeming steps shall be used to compute the couple's countable income:

i. Add the ineligible individual's remaining unearned income after the deduction of the living al-

lowance for the ineligible child(ren) to all of the beneficiary's unearned income. Determine the value of in-kind support and maintenance in deeming situations, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 10:71-5.4(a)12.

(1) Do not apply the \$20.00 general income exclusion to the beneficiary individual's income before combining the income.

ii. Add the ineligible individual's remaining earned income after deduction of the living allowance for the ineligible child(ren) to all of the applicant's/beneficiary's earned income.

iii. Treat the two totals of unearned and earned income in the same manner as those of an eligible couple. Apply appropriate income exclusions and compute the couple's countable income as follows:

(1) First, subtract the \$20.00 general income exclusion from the total unearned income. Then, subtract any unused portion of the general income exclusion from the total earned income, if any.

(2) From the remaining earned income, subtract \$65.00 (work expense allowance) and one-half of the remainder of earned income.

(3) Add the remaining earned and unearned income together to arrive at the couple's total countable income.

6. Step 6: If the couple's (applicant/beneficiary and ineligible spouse) remaining countable income is less than the amount in Table A, Figure 3, for the appropriate living arrangement, the applicant/beneficiary is financially eligible for Medicaid Only. If the couple's remaining income is equal to or greater than the amount in Table A, Figure 3, for the appropriate living arrangement, the applicant/beneficiary is financially ineligible for Medicaid Only.

(d) Deeming of income to spouse and child(ren): In situations when an ineligible individual is subject to deeming of his or her income to both an applicant/beneficiary spouse and an applicant/beneficiary child, the following deeming procedures are used:

1. Step 1: Determine the amount of income, if any, to be deemed to the applicant/beneficiary spouse in accordance with the procedures in N.J.A.C. 10:71-5.5(c).

2. Step 2: If, after deeming of income from the ineligible spouse, the adult applicant/beneficiary is financially eligible for Medicaid Only, there is no income available for deeming to the applicant/beneficiary child(ren). The deeming process stops.

3. Step 3: If, in the process of deeming of income to the applicant/beneficiary spouse, such spouse becomes financially ineligible for Medicaid Only, that portion of deemed income that exceeds the eligibility level in Table A, Figure 3, for the appropriate living arrangement for the

adult applicant/beneficiary shall be deemed to any child applicant/beneficiary. This income is treated as unearned income to the child.

4. Step 4: If there is more than one child applicant/beneficiary in the household, divide the deemable income equally among them. However, income is not deemed to any child in excess of that amount which, in combination with his or her own countable income, creates financial ineligibility for the child. That portion of deemed income that exceeds the eligibility level in Table B, for the appropriate living arrangement, shall be available for deeming equally to any other applicant/beneficiary child(ren) in the household (in accordance with Step 5 below) in addition to their equal shares of the total parental deemable income.

5. Step 5: Combine any income deemed to the eligible child together with any countable income of the eligible child.

i. First, subtract the \$20.00 general income exclusion from the child's unearned income.

ii. If the child's total income is less than the appropriate income eligibility standard in Table B, the child is financially eligible for Medicaid Only.

iii. If the child's total income is greater than the appropriate income eligibility standard in Table B, the child is financially ineligible for Medicaid Only, and that portion of deemed income that exceeds the eligibility level in Table B, for the appropriate living arrangement for the applicant/beneficiary child, shall be available for deeming equally to any other applicant/beneficiary children in addition to their equal shares of the total deemable income.

(e) Deeming of income from a parent (and spouse of a parent) to a child: The computation methods for deeming of income from an ineligible parent (and spouse of a parent) to a child differ depending on the type of parental income.

1. Step 1: Determine the total monthly parental income, both earned and unearned (separately), less any income excluded in N.J.A.C. 10:71-5.5(b). Do not combine the two totals.

i. Determine the living allowance for each ineligible child not receiving public assistance, by subtracting the child's countable income from the amount of the living allowance for an ineligible child in Table A, Figure 1. No allowance may be deducted for a child receiving public assistance.

ii. Subtract the living allowance for each ineligible child, determined in (e)1i above, from the unearned income of the parent(s). Subtract any remaining living allowance from the earned income of the parent(s).

iii. The remaining parental income should be treated in accordance with the procedures of Step 2, 3, or 4 below, as appropriate.

2. Step 2: Remaining parental income is earned income only:

i. From the remaining parental earned income, subtract \$85.00 (\$20.00 general income exclusion plus \$65.00 work expense exclusion).

ii. Next, subtract the appropriate parental living allowance for the parent (and spouse of a parent) living in the household. This parental allowance is found in Table A, Figure 4a.

iii. The remaining amount is the income deemed to the applicant/beneficiary child(ren). This deemed income is treated as unearned income.

iv. Combine any income deemed to the eligible child together with any countable income of the eligible child.

(1) Subtract the \$20.00 general income exclusion from the child's unearned income.

v. If the child's total countable income is less than the appropriate income eligibility standard in Table B, the child is financially eligible for Medicaid Only.

3. Step 3: Remaining parental income is unearned only:

i. From the remaining parental unearned income, subtract \$20.00 (general income exclusion).

ii. Next, subtract the appropriate parent living allowance for the parent (and spouse of a parent) living in the household. This parental allowance is found in Table A, Figure 4b.

iii. The remaining amount is the income deemed to the applicant/beneficiary child(ren). This deemed income is treated as unearned income.

iv. Combine any income deemed to the eligible child together with any countable income of the eligible child.

(1) Subtract the \$20.00 general income exclusion from the child's unearned income.

v. If the child's total income is less than the appropriate income eligibility standard in Table B, the child is financially eligible for Medicaid Only.

4. Step 4: Remaining parental income is both earned and unearned:

i. First, subtract the \$20.00 general income exclusion from the remaining parental unearned income. Then, subtract any unused portion of the general income exclusion from the remaining parental earned income.

ii. From the remaining earned income, subtract \$65.00 (work expense allowance) and one-half of the remainder of earned income. Combine any remaining earned income with the remaining unearned income.

iii. Subtract the appropriate parental living allowance for the parent (and spouse of parent) living in the household. This parental allowance is found in Table A, Figure 4c.

iv. The remaining amount is the income deemed to the applicant/beneficiary child(ren). This deemed income is treated as unearned income.

v. Combine any income deemed to the eligible child together with any countable income of the eligible child.

(1) Subtract the \$20.00 general income exclusion from the child's unearned income.

vi. If the child's total income is less than the appropriate income eligibility standard in Table B, the child is financially eligible for Medicaid Only.

(f) Treatment of income deemed to a child: Any income deemed to a child is treated as unearned income and thus subject to the \$20.00 general income exclusion. If there is more than one applicant/beneficiary child in the household, the deemed income is divided equally among them. However, no income is to be deemed in excess of the amount which, when combined with the child's own countable income, creates ineligibility. That portion of deemed income that exceeds the eligibility level in Table B, for the appropriate living arrangement, is available for deeming equally to other applicant/beneficiary children in the household in addition to their equal shares of the total parental deemed income. The following steps shall apply in treatment of income deemed to a child:

1. Step 1: Combine any income deemed to the eligible child together with any countable income of the eligible child.

2. Step 2: Subtract the \$20.00 general income exclusion from the child's unearned income.

3. Step 3: If the child's total remaining income is less than the appropriate income eligibility standard in Table B the child is financially eligible for Medicaid Only. The child has no excess deemed income available for other applicant/beneficiary children.

4. Step 4: If, in the process of deeming of income to an applicant/beneficiary child, such child becomes financially ineligible for Medicaid Only, that portion of deemed income that exceeds the appropriate income eligibility standard in Table B shall be divided equally among other applicant/beneficiary children in the household, in addition to their equal shares of the total parental deemable income, and shall be counted in determining financial eligibility for Medicaid Only for such other children.

(g) Table A which follows shall be used in deeming computation amounts. Table A will be revised annually in accordance with Federal cost-of-living adjustments made pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §1382(f). A notice of administrative changes containing the revisions will be published annually in the New Jersey Register.

Table A

Deeming Computation Amounts

1. Living allowance for each ineligible child	\$319.00	
2. Remaining income amount		
	<u>Head of Household</u>	<u>Receiving Support and Maintenance</u>
	\$ 318.50	\$ 212.67
3. Spouse to Spouse Deeming—Eligibility Levels		
a. Residential Health Care Facility		\$1,675.36
b. Eligible Individual Living Alone or with Ineligible Spouse		\$1,300.36
c. Living Alone or with Others		\$ 987.25
d. Living in the Household of Another		\$ 730.09
4. Parental Allowance—Deeming to Children Remaining Income is:		
	<u>One Parent</u>	<u>Parent and Spouse of Parent</u>
a. Earned only	\$1,274.00	\$1,912.00
b. Unearned only	\$ 637.00	\$ 956.00
c. Both earned and unearned	\$ 637.00	\$ 956.00

As amended on an emergency basis, R.1981 d.276, effective July 1, 1981.

See: 13 N.J.R. 501(a).
 Readopted, R.1981 d.385, effective September 24, 1981.
 See: 13 N.J.R. 501(a), 13 N.J.R. 773(a).

Substantially amended.
 Amended by R.1982 d.314, effective August 31, 1982.
 See: 14 N.J.R. 758(a), 14 N.J.R. 1058(a).

Figures which appeared at 14 N.J.R. 758(a) were effective upon filing through September 30, 1982. The new figures became effective October 1, 1982 and represent a \$2.10 increase in the optional State supplement in SSI payment level.

Amended by R.1983 d.381, effective August 30, 1983, with changes upon adoption.

See: 15 N.J.R. 1187(a), 15 N.J.R. 1585(a).
 Originally filed as emergency rule R.1983 d.289 effective July 1, 1983.

Amended by R.1983 d.593, effective December 19, 1983, operative January 1, 1984.

See: 15 N.J.R. 1733(a), 15 N.J.R. 2171(a).
 Deeming computation amounts increased.
 As amended on an emergency basis, R.1984 d.467, effective September 28, 1984 (operative October 1, 1984).

See: 16 N.J.R. 2845(a).
 Table A amended.
 Readopted, R.1984 d.566, effective November 28, 1984 (amendments effective January 1, 1985).

See: 16 N.J.R. 2845(a), 16 N.J.R. 3451(a).
 Previously filed as emergency rule R.1984 d.289.
 (d): Raised computation amounts.

Emergency amendment, R.1985 d.714, effective December 27, 1985 (operative January 1, 1986, expires February 24, 1986).

See: 18 N.J.R. 215(a).
 Table A amended.
 Amended by R.1986 d.53, effective March 3, 1986.

See: 17 N.J.R. 2732(a), 18 N.J.R. 484(a).
 (a)1 added text "regarding earnings of ... reaches age 18". Old (c) deleted; new (c)-(e) added; old (d) recodified to (g).

Emergency amendment, R.1987 d.78, effective December 29, 1986 (operative January 1, 1987; expires February 27, 1987).

See: 19 N.J.R. 245(a).
 Table A amended.
 Adoption of concurrent proposal, R.1987 d.174, effective April 20, 1987.

See: 19 N.J.R. 245(a), 19 N.J.R. 646(b).
 Emergency amendment, R.1988 d.55, effective January 4, 1988 (operative January 4, 1988, expires March 4, 1988).

See: 20 N.J.R. 207(a).
 Table A amended.
 Adoption of concurrent proposal, R.1988 d.193, effective May 2, 1988.

See: 20 N.J.R. 207(a), 20 N.J.R. 985(a).
 Previously filed as Emergency Rule.
 Emergency amendment, R.1989 d.57, effective December 29, 1988 (operative January 1, 1989, expires February 27, 1989).

See: 21 N.J.R. 207(a).
 Table A amended.
 Emergency amendment expired February 27, 1989. Concurrent proposal adopted February 28, 1989, as R.1989 d.174, effective March 20, 1989.

See: 21 N.J.R. 207(a), 21 N.J.R. 763(a).
 Emergency provisions retained.

Emergency amendment R.1990 d.55, effective December 26, 1989, operative January 1, 1990 (expires February 24, 1990).

See: 22 N.J.R. 251(a).
 Deeming computation amounts raised.
 Adopted concurrent proposal, R.1990 d.177, effective February 23, 1990.

See: 22 N.J.R. 251(a), 22 N.J.R. 954(a).
 Provisions of emergency amendment R.1990 d.55 readopted without change.

Emergency amendment, R.1991 d.37, effective December 31, 1990 (operative January 1, 1991).

See: 23 N.J.R. 233(a).
 Increase in Medicaid Only eligibility computation amounts at (g).
 Adopted concurrent proposal, R.1991 d.169, effective March 1, 1991.

See: 23 N.J.R. 233(a), 23 N.J.R. 1007(a).
 Provisions of emergency amendment, R.1991 d.37, readopted without change.

Emergency Amendment, R.1992 d.84, effective January 22, 1992, operative January 1, 1992, (expires March 22, 1992).
 See: 24 N.J.R. 651(a).
 Increase in Medicaid Only eligibility computation amounts at (g).

Adopted concurrent amendment, R.1992 d.191, effective April 20, 1992. See: 24 N.J.R. 651(a), 24 N.J.R. 1498(b).

Provisions of emergency amendment, R.1992 d.84, readopted without change.

Amended by R.1993 d.402, effective August 16, 1993.

See: 25 N.J.R. 1818(a), 25 N.J.R. 3786(a).

Amended by R.1994 d.428, effective August 15, 1994.

See: 26 N.J.R. 1754(a), 26 N.J.R. 3478(a).

Amended by R.1996 d.46, effective January 16, 1996.

See: 27 N.J.R. 3668(a), 28 N.J.R. 291(a).

Table A amended.

Amended by R.1996 d.466, effective October 7, 1996.

See: 28 N.J.R. 2779(c), 28 N.J.R. 4480(a).

Amended by R.2000 d.415, effective October 16, 2000.

See: 32 N.J.R. 2565(a), 32 N.J.R. 3844(a).

Substituted references to beneficiaries for references to recipients throughout; and in (g), increased dollar amounts throughout.

Amended by R.2004 d.401, effective November 1, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 922(b), 36 N.J.R. 4982(a).

Rewrote (g).

Amended by R.2006 d.133, effective November 6, 2006.

See: 37 N.J.R. 3774(a), 37 N.J.R. 4505(a), 38 N.J.R. 4712(a).

In (g), updated Table A.

Administrative change.

See: 40 N.J.R. 2276(a).

10:71-5.6 Income eligibility standards

(a) Table B which follows shall be used to determine income eligibility for aged, blind, and disabled persons who make application for Medicaid Only benefits. The standard used for applicants/beneficiaries shall be determined in accordance with the following living arrangement categories. (For cases involving the deeming of income, this section shall be used in conjunction with N.J.A.C. 10:71-5.5). The income eligibility standards in Table B which follows will be revised annually to reflect the annual cost-of-living adjustments to the SSI payment standards made by the Social Security Administration in accordance with 42 U.S.C. § 1382f. A notice of administrative changes containing the revisions will be published annually in the New Jersey Register.

(b) The income standard for Residential Health Care Facilities (RHCs) (Table B, Figure I) shall be used for individuals/couples residing in such facilities which are licensed by the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services. Individuals in unlicensed facilities shall always be categorized as “living alone” (N.J.A.C. 10:71-5.6(c) and Table B, II).

(c) Non-institutional living arrangements:

1. The category “living alone” (Table B, Figure II) shall be used for individuals/couples who are:

- i. Living physically alone;
- ii. Living in a commercial establishment, such as a motel, hotel, rooming or boarding house (including type A, B, and C, formerly known as unlicensed boarding homes) that holds itself open to the public as such;
- iii. Living in a business-like arrangement;
- iv. Purchasing or preparing food separately, which applies to persons living with others in a private dwelling, but separately purchasing or preparing their own

food. The determination is based on the person’s customary food purchase and preparation habits. Occasional joint purchase or preparation of food does not preclude a person from this classification.

v. Taking of all meals elsewhere, which applies to persons living with others in a private dwelling but taking all meals elsewhere.

vi. Persons living as members of a household but having ownership or rental responsibility and paying more than their pro rata share of the household expenses (because other members are paying less) are considered to be living alone.

(1) It is assumed that a couple share rental or ownership responsibility. Therefore, the following steps are necessary to determine if the eligible individual with ineligible spouse and other household members is paying more than his or her pro rata share of household expenses.

(A) If the eligible individual’s contributions (singly) are more than his/her pro rata share of household expenses, he/she will be considered living alone. If not, proceed to (c)1vi(1)(B) below.

(B) If the contributions of both the eligible individual and ineligible spouse to the household are more than their pro rata share, they shall be considered to be living alone. If their contribution is equal to or less than their pro rata share, the applicants/beneficiaries shall be considered to be living with others (see N.J.A.C. 10:71-5.6(c)3).

(C) Household expenses are limited to: food; mortgage or rental payments; real property taxes; heating fuel; gas; electricity; water; sewer; garbage removal.

2. The category “living alone with ineligible spouse” (Table B, Figure III) applies when an individual lives with his or her ineligible spouse and there are no other persons who are part of the household. If any other persons, even minor children, are present in the same household, this category does not apply. Parents with minor children are always considered to be in the same household; therefore, the presence of minor children would result in the living arrangements described in either N.J.A.C. 10:71-5.6(c)3 or 5.6(c)4.

3. The category “living with others” (see Table B, Figure II) applies when the individual/couple resides with others and either:

- i. Has ownership or rental liability and pays an amount equal to or less than pro rata share of household expenses (see N.J.A.C. 10:71-5.6(c) 1vi(1)(C)); or
- ii. Does not have ownership or rental liability and is sharing household expenses with other members of the household. Sharing is defined as paying a pro rata share

or more of household expenses (see N.J.A.C. 10:71-5.6(c)1vi(1)(C)).

4. If the individual/couple lives in a household with adults other than a spouse and the living arrangement has not already been determined in N.J.A.C. 10:71-5.6(c)1 through 5.6(c)3 above, the individual/couple may be considered to be living in the household of another (Table B, Figure IV). The specific criteria for categorization in this living arrangement is the receipt of both support and maintenance. That is, the individual/couple does not purchase either food or shelter separately in accordance with (c)4i below.

i. If meals are consumed by an individual/couple in the household and the individual/couple does not purchase either food or shelter separately, the individual/couple shall be considered living in the household of another.

(1) Separate purchase of food means that the individual/couple pays a pro rata share of the household's food or actually purchases food separately. An individual/couple receiving food stamps as a separate food stamp household shall be considered to be purchasing food separately.

(2) Separate purchase of shelter exists when the individual/couple contributes an amount equal to the pro rata share of the household's shelter expenses. Shelter expenses are limited to all items except "food" in N.J.A.C. 10:71-5.6(c)1vi(1)(C).

ii. Persons determined to be living in the household of another shall not be considered to be receiving support and maintenance in-kind pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10:71-5.4(a)12 because such in-kind income has already been taken into account in the eligibility standards.

5. Table B follows:

Table B

Variations in Living Arrangements	Medicaid Eligibility Income Standards	
	Individual	Couple
I. Residential Health Care Facility	\$ 847.05	\$1,675.36
II. Living Alone or with Others	\$ 668.25	\$ 981.36
III. Living Alone or with Ineligible Spouse	\$ 981.36	
IV. Living in Household of Another	\$ 468.98	\$ 730.43
V. Title XIX Approved Facility: Includes persons in acute general hospitals, nursing facilities, intermediate care facilities/mental retardation (ICFMR) and licensed special hospitals (Class A, B, C) and Title XIX psychiatric hospitals (for persons under age 21 and age 65 and over) or a combination of such facilities for a full calendar month.		\$1,911.00†

† Gross income (that is, income prior to any income exclusions) is applied to this Medicaid "Cap."

(d) For the purpose of the Medicaid program, Title XIX approved facilities shall include acute care general hospitals, nursing facilities, intermediate care facilities for the mentally retarded (ICF/MR), and licensed special hospitals (Class A, B, and C) and Title XIX psychiatric hospitals (for persons under age 21 and age 65 and over).

1. Persons are considered institutionalized if they enter a Title XIX approved facility and a physician has certified that the duration of stay in the Title XIX facility (or a combination of such facilities) is expected to be 30 consecutive days or more. Income eligibility shall be determined in accordance with the variations contained in N.J.A.C. 10:71-5.4(b). However, the income of the institutionalized individual shall not be reduced by any of the income exclusions found in N.J.A.C. 10:71-5.3.

2. Institutionalized individuals, identified in (d)1 above, who are found Program eligible will receive benefits as of the date of admission.

3. Persons in a facility which is not Title XIX approved or whose stay is expected to be a period of less than 30 consecutive days will have eligibility determined in accordance with the community living arrangement which existed prior to entering the facility.

4. Temporary absence from the institution: Any temporary absence, during which the individual remains a patient of the institution, does not interrupt a continuous stay in the institution.

5. Persons living in the community who do not otherwise qualify for Medicaid benefits and who elect to participate in the hospice program, or who are assigned a slot in the CCPED or other waiver programs, will have financial eligibility determined in the same manner as those who reside in an institution.

i. Such individuals who are found eligible will receive benefits on the date of the election of hospice benefits, or the date of assignment to a waiver slot, whichever is applicable.

(e) No portion of a cash reward provided to any individual by the Division for providing information about fraud and/or abuse in any program administered in whole or in part by the Division shall be included in the computation of income for financial eligibility purposes.

Amended on emergency basis, R.1981 d.276, effective July 1, 1981.
See: 13 N.J.R. 501(a).
Readopted, R.1981 d.385, effective September 24, 1981.
See: 13 N.J.R. 501(a), 13 N.J.R. 773(a).
Substantially amended.
Amended by R.1982 d.314, effective August 31, 1982.
See: 14 N.J.R. 758(a), 14 N.J.R. 1058(a).
Figures which appeared at 14 N.J.R. 758(a) were effective upon filing through September 30, 1982.

The new figures became effective October 1, 1982 and represent a \$2.10 increase in the optional State Supplement in SSI payment level. Amended by R.1983 d.381, effective August 30, 1983 with changes upon adoption.
 See: 15 N.J.R. 1187(a), 15 N.J.R. 1585(a).
 Originally filed as emergency rule R.1983 d.289, effective July 1, 1983.
 Amended by R.1983 d.593, effective December 19, 1983, operative January 1, 1984.
 See: 15 N.J.R. 1733(a), 15 N.J.R. 2171(a).
 Eligibility income standards increased.
 Amended by R.1984 d.244, effective June 18, 1984.
 See: 16 N.J.R. 684(a), 16 N.J.R. 1611(a).
 Table B: "882.00" was "852.90."
 As amended on emergency basis, R.1984 d.467, effective September 28, 1984 (operative October 1, 1984).
 See: 16 N.J.R. 2845(a).
 Table B eligibility Income Standards increased.
 Readopted, R.1984 d.566, effective November 28, 1984 (amendment effective January 1, 1985).
 See: 16 N.J.R. 2845(a), 16 N.J.R. 3451(a).
 Previously filed as emergency rule R.1983 d.289.
 (c)4: Table B, Figure "V" changed to "IV;" (c)5: Income standards raised in Table B.
 Amended by R.1985 d.169, effective April 15, 1985 (operative May 1, 1985).
 See: 17 N.J.R. 39(a), 17 N.J.R. 969(b).
 (e)4 added.
 Emergency amendment, R.1985 d.714, effective December 27, 1985 (operative January 1, 1986, expires February 24, 1986).
 See: 18 N.J.R. 215(a).
 Table B amended.
 Adopted concurrent proposal, R.1986 d.74, effective February 24, 1986.
 See: 18 N.J.R. 215(a), 18 N.J.R. 565(a).
 Emergency amendment, R.1987 d.78, effective December 29, 1986 (operative January 1, 1987; expires February 27, 1987).
 See: 19 N.J.R. 245(a).
 Table B amended.
 Adoption of concurrent proposal, R.1987 d.174, effective April 20, 1987.
 See: 19 N.J.R. 245(a), 19 N.J.R. 646(b).
 Emergency Amendment, R.1988 d.55, effective January 4, 1988 (operative January 4, 1988, expires March 4, 1988).
 See: 20 N.J.R. 207(a).
 Table B amended.
 Adopted concurrent proposal, R.1988 d.193, effective May 2, 1988.
 See: 20 N.J.R. 207(a), 20 N.J.R. 985(a).
 Previously filed as an Emergency Rule.
 Emergency amendment, R.1989 d.57, effective December 29, 1988 (operative January 1, 1989, expires February 27, 1989).
 See: 21 N.J.R. 207(a).
 Table B amended.
 Emergency amendment expired February 27, 1989. Concurrent proposed amendments adopted and filed February 28, 1989, as R.1989 d.174, effective March 20, 1989.
 See: 21 N.J.R. 217(a), 21 N.J.R. 763(a).
 Provisions retained.
 Emergency amendment, R.1990 d.55, effective December 26, 1989, operative January 1, 1990 (expires February 24, 1990).
 See: 22 N.J.R. 251(a).
 Income eligibility standards raised.
 Adopted concurrent proposal, R.1990 d.177, effective February 23, 1990.
 See: 22 N.J.R. 251(a), 22 N.J.R. 954(a).
 Provisions of emergency amendment, R.1990 d.55, readopted without change.
 Amended by R.1991 d.32, effective January 22, 1991.
 See: 22 N.J.R. 7(a), 23 N.J.R. 215(b).
 Added (d)4.
 Emergency amendment, R.1991 d.37, effective December 31, 1990 (operative January 1, 1991).
 See: 23 N.J.R. 233(a).
 Increase in income eligibility standards at (c)5.
 Adopted concurrent proposal, R.1991 d.169, effective March 1, 1991.

See: 23 N.J.R. 233(a), 23 N.J.R. 1007(a).
 Provisions of emergency amendment, R.1991 d.37, readopted without change.
 Emergency amendment, R.1992 d.84, effective January 22, 1992, operative January 1, 1992, (expires March 22, 1992).
 See: 24 N.J.R. 651(a).
 Increase in income eligibility standards at (c)5.
 Adopted concurrent amendment, R.1992 d.191, effective April 20, 1992.
 See: 24 N.J.R. 651(a), 24 N.J.R. 1498(b).
 Provisions of emergency amendment, R.1992 d.84, readopted without change.
 Amended by R.1992 d.442, effective November 2, 1992.
 See: 24 N.J.R. 2778(a), 24 N.J.R. 4036(a).
 Revised (d).
 Amended by R.1993 d.402, effective August 16, 1993.
 See: 25 N.J.R. 1818(a), 25 N.J.R. 3786(a).
 Amended by R.1994 d.428, effective August 15, 1994.
 See: 26 N.J.R. 1754(a), 26 N.J.R. 3478(a).
 Amended by R.1995 d.651, effective December 18, 1995.
 See: 27 N.J.R. 3543(a), 27 N.J.R. 5046(a).
 Amended by R.1996 d.46, effective January 16, 1996.
 See: 27 N.J.R. 3668(a), 28 N.J.R. 291(a).
 Table B amended.
 Amended by R.1996 d.466, effective October 7, 1996.
 See: 28 N.J.R. 2779(c), 28 N.J.R. 4480(a).
 Amended by R.2000 d.415, effective October 16, 2000.
 See: 32 N.J.R. 2565(a), 32 N.J.R. 3844(a).
 Substituted references to beneficiaries for references to recipients throughout; and in (c)5, increased dollar amounts throughout.
 Amended by R.2002 d.124, effective April 15, 2002.
 See: 33 N.J.R. 4188(a), 34 N.J.R. 1546(a).
 Added (e).
 Amended by R.2004 d.401, effective November 1, 2004.
 See: 36 N.J.R. 922(b), 36 N.J.R. 4982(a).
 In (a), added the fourth and fifth sentences; in (c), increased the amounts for eligibility income standards in Table B.
 Amended by R.2006 d.133, effective November 6, 2006.
 See: 37 N.J.R. 3774(a), 37 N.J.R. 4505(a), 38 N.J.R. 4712(a).
 In (c)5, updated Table B.
 Administrative change.
 See: 40 N.J.R. 2276(a).

Law Review and Journal Commentaries

Protecting the Home in Government Benefits Planning. Gary Mazart. 164 N.J.Law. 34 (Mag) (Oct.1994).

10:71-5.7 Post-eligibility treatment of income; institutionalized individuals

(a) The amounts specified in (b) through (h) of this section shall be deducted from the income of an institutionalized individual prior to the application of his or her income to the cost of the long term care. These deductions apply only after the individual is determined eligible for Medicaid and shall not be deducted in the determination of income eligibility.

1. Should the total deductions authorized under this section exceed the institutionalized individual's income, no assistance is available from the Medicaid program to make up the deficit. In such circumstances, available funds shall first be used to provide the institutionalized individual with his or her personal needs allowance. Any remaining deductible income may be distributed to the community spouse or other family members as decided by the institutionalized individual, not to exceed the amount authorized under this section for any individual.

2. The deductions authorized in (c) through (e) below for the maintenance of the community spouse and other family members apply only so long as there is a community spouse as defined in (c) below. Deductions for the community spouse and other family members shall cease in the first full-calendar month after the community spouse dies, becomes divorced, or is institutionalized.

(b) A personal needs allowance in the amount of \$35.00 shall be deducted from the institutionalized individual's income. In addition, gross income derived from employment that is considered essential toward satisfying the individual's developmental need to achieve a certain amount of independence shall be deducted from the individual's income. The combination of these deductions shall not exceed the amount in Table B for an individual living alone as found at N.J.A.C. 10:71-5.6(c)5.

(c) There shall be deducted from the institutionalized individual's income an amount for the maintenance of the community spouse. Except as specifically provided below, the deduction for the maintenance of the community spouse shall not exceed \$1,383. For purposes of this section, a community spouse shall be defined as an individual who is legally married to an institutionalized individual under the provisions of State law and who is not himself or herself institutionalized. In arriving at the amount that may be deducted for the maintenance of the community spouse, the deductions authorized by this section shall be reduced by the gross income of the community spouse. The community spouse deduction is authorized only to the extent that the income deducted is actually made available to (or for the benefit of) the community spouse. No amount of the community spouse's maintenance deduction may be retained by the institutionalized individual.

1. If the community spouse's average monthly shelter expenses for his or her principal place of residence exceed \$414.00, the amount of that excess shall increase the maximum community spouse maintenance deduction. Shelter expenses are limited to rent or mortgage (including principal and interest), taxes and insurance, a utility standard for the individual's utility expenses, and in the case of a condominium or cooperative, the monthly required maintenance charge.

2. A utility allowance shall not be authorized unless the community spouse directly incurs charges for utilities. A community spouse who directly incurs charges for heating fuel (in accordance with food stamp regulations at N.J.A.C. 10:87-5.10(a)5iv) separate and apart from their rent or mortgage payments, shall be entitled to a utility allowance in the amount specified as the "Heating Utility Allowance" at N.J.A.C. 10:87-12.1. If the community spouse does not directly incur heating fuel charges but does directly incur charges for a utility other than telephone, water, sewerage, or garbage collection, a utility allowance in the amount specified as "Standard Utility Allowance" at N.J.A.C.

10:87-12.1 shall be authorized. If the only direct utility charge incurred by the community spouse separate and apart from the rent or mortgage is the telephone the amount specified at N.J.A.C. 10:87-12.1 as "Uniform Telephone Allowance" shall be added to the community spouse's monthly shelter costs. The telephone allowance shall not be used if either of the above utility allowances have been used because those standard allowances include telephone charges.

(d) When the institutionalized individual's income is insufficient to provide the maximum authorized deduction for the community spouse, either the institutionalized spouse or the community spouse can request a fair hearing in accordance with N.J.A.C. 10:71-8.4. If either member can establish at the fair hearing that the income generated from the community spouse's share of the couple's resources is inadequate to raise the community spouse's income (together with the community spouse maintenance deduction) to the maximum authorized level, additional resources (beyond the community spouse's share as established at N.J.A.C. 10:71-4.8) may be set aside for the community spouse. The amount of resources to be set aside shall be that amount that is determined sufficient to generate sufficient income to raise the community spouse's gross income to the maximum authorized level.

(e) If either the institutionalized spouse or the community spouse is dissatisfied with the determination of the amount of the community spouse maintenance deduction, he or she may request a fair hearing in accordance with N.J.A.C. 10:71-8.4. If it is established at the fair hearing that the community spouse needs income above the amount established by the community spouse maintenance deduction due to exceptional circumstances resulting in financial duress, there shall be substituted for the community spouse maintenance deduction such amount as is necessary to alleviate the financial duress and for so long as directed in the final hearing decision.

(f) If a court has entered an order against an institutionalized spouse for monthly income for the support of a community spouse and the amount of the order is greater than the amount of the community spouse deduction, the amount so ordered shall be used in place of the community spouse deduction.

(g) A family member maintenance deduction shall be calculated for each family member of the institutionalized individual.

1. For purposes of this section, family members must reside with the community spouse and shall be limited to the following persons:

- i. Children of either member of the couple who are under the age of 21;
- ii. Children over the age of 21 who are claimed as dependents by either member of a couple for tax purposes under the Internal Revenue Code;

iii. Parents of either member of a couple who are claimed as dependents for tax purposes under the Internal Revenue Code as dependents by either spouse; or

iv. A brother or sister (including half-brothers and half-sisters and siblings gained through adoption) of either member of a couple and who are claimed as dependents for tax purposes under the Internal Revenue Code.

2. The family member deduction shall be computed as follows. The family member's gross income shall be subtracted from \$1,383. One-third of the remaining amount shall be the family member deduction for that family member.

(h) If a physician has certified that the individual will be institutionalized for a temporary period only and is likely to return to the residence within six months of the date of institutionalization, a maximum of \$150.00 may be deducted from the institutionalized individual's income for the maintenance of his or her home in the community. This deduction shall be limited to the actual costs of such maintenance (for example, mortgage or rent payments, taxes, insurance, and other incidental costs) or \$150.00, whichever is less. This deduction may be applied against the individual's income for no longer than six months. This deduction may not be applied if a deduction has been made for the maintenance of a community spouse or other family member residing in that residence.

1. This deduction must be applied to the costs of maintaining the residence and may not be accumulated by the institutionalized individual.

(i) If the institutionalized individual has health insurance covering himself or herself, the amount of the insurance premiums shall be deducted.

1. If the premium is billed other than monthly, the amount of the premium shall be prorated and deducted accordingly.

2. If the premium covers other individuals in addition to the institutionalized individual, only that portion of the premium attributable to the institutionalized individual shall be deducted.

(j) No portion of a cash reward provided to any individual by the Division for providing information about fraud and/or abuse in any program administered in whole or in part by the Division shall be included in the computation of income for financial eligibility purposes.

New Rule, R.1991 d.32, effective January 22, 1991.
See: 22 N.J.R. 7(a), 23 N.J.R. 215(b).
Amended by R.2000 d.415, effective October 16, 2000.
See: 32 N.J.R. 2565(a), 32 N.J.R. 3844(a).

In the introductory paragraph of (c) and (g)2, increased dollar amounts from \$856.00 to \$1,383; and in (c)1, increased dollar amount from \$257.00 to \$414.00.

Amended by R.2002 d.124, effective April 15, 2002.

See: 33 N.J.R. 4188(a), 34 N.J.R. 1546(a).

Added (j).

Law Review and Journal Commentaries

Marital Status and The 60+ Crowd. Elizabeth Brody. 164 N.J.Law 39 (Mag) (Oct. 1994).

Case Notes

New Jersey did not violate Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act by employing "income-first" approach in determining Medicaid eligibility of spouse institutionalized in long-term care facility. Cleary ex rel. Cleary v. Waldman, 167 F.3d 801 (3rd Cir. N.J. 1999).

Assets of institutionalized spouse may be diverted to cover community spouse's statutory minimum needs allowance, where community spouse's income is insufficient to meet allowance, for purposes of Medicare spend down requirements; however, resources transferred to community spouse need not be adequate to cover shortfall. Cleary v. Waldman, D.N.J.1997, 959 F.Supp. 222.

Income subject to transfer from an institutionalized spouse was not limited to the income he was earning as of the date when the couple's resources were allocated for purposes of determining Medicaid Only eligibility. The other spouse's minimum monthly maintenance needs allowance deficit could be made up with the Social Security disability income the institutionalized spouse was reasonably expected to earn thereafter. N.E. v. New Jersey Div. of Med. Assistance & Health Servs., 399 N.J. Super. 566, 945 A.2d 109, 2008 N.J. Super. LEXIS 78 (App.Div. 2008).

Under the "income-first" approach, before any of the institutionalized spouse's share of the couple's countable resources could be allocated to the community spouse to meet the shortfall in her minimum monthly maintenance needs allowance (MMMNA), the institutionalized spouse's Social Security benefits had to be applied to that deficit. Moreover, because the monthly Social Security disability benefits were sufficient to meet the MMMNA deficit, there was no basis for increasing the community spouse's share of the couple's countable resources beyond the limits established by N.J.A.C. 10:71-4.8(a). N.E. v. New Jersey Div. of Med. Assistance & Health Servs., 399 N.J. Super. 566, 945 A.2d 109, 2008 N.J. Super. LEXIS 78 (App.Div. 2008).

Initial Decision (2007 N.J. AGEN LEXIS 189) adopted, which concluded that in calculating the Community Spouse Resource Allowance, repayments on home equity loans or lines of credit are not deductible as a shelter expense unless there is a direct relationship to preserving the marital home, such as when the loan proceeds are used for major repairs or capital improvements necessary to protect the home. A.F. v. DMAHS, OAL Dkt. No. HMA 12301-06, 2007 N.J. AGEN LEXIS 330, Final Decision (May 24, 2007).

In an institutionalization case, although the community spouse's income clearly exceeded the minimum monthly maintenance needs allowance (MMMNA), and although rental property is not an excluded resource, sale of the couple's rental property, which was necessitated by the division of the couple's resources, would reduce her income substantially; therefore, under N.J.A.C. 10:71-5.7(d) and due to the unique circumstances, the community spouse was entitled to protect the entire value of the rental property to increase her income in an attempt to reach the MMMNA and still meet the resource standard. N.S. v. DMAHS, OAL Dkt. No. HMA 4902-06, 2007 N.J. AGEN LEXIS 331, Final Decision (March 9, 2007).

Medicaid community spouse met the "exceptional circumstances" standard of proof of 42 U.S.C.A. 1396r-5 and N.J.A.C. 10:71-5.7; therefore, the community spouse's Minimum Monthly Maintenance Needs Allowance was to be recalculated and adjusted upward, beyond the standard allowances, with the inclusion of monthly adult disability child expenses not covered by SSI, monthly bankruptcy court ordered payments, and monthly expenses of a refinance loan to prevent foreclosure. Hill v. DMAHS, OAL Dkt. No. HMA 11006-03, 2006 N.J. AGEN LEXIS 83, Initial Decision (January 12, 2006).

Community spouse was entitled to increase her community spouse resource allowance under 42 U.S.C.A. 1396r-5 and N.J.A.C. 10:71-5.7, thereby protecting additional resources and making her deceased

husband, who had no income, eligible for Medicaid (adopting and modifying 2005 N.J. AGEN LEXIS 595). *W.S. v. DMAHS*, OAL Dkt. No. HMA 2126-05, 2005 N.J. AGEN LEXIS 1111, Final Decision (September 14, 2005).

Husband's application to recalculate his Medicaid benefit was properly denied because the husband and his wife transgressed the permissible limits of Medicaid planning by entering into a divorce from bed and board and agreeing, in a consent order without judicial fact finding, that the institutionalized husband's pension benefits would be paid to the wife as alimony. *H.K. v. Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services*, 379 N.J. Super. 321, 878 A.2d 16, 2005 N.J. Super. LEXIS 238 (App.Div. 2005).

Both interest and principal of community spouse's monthly annuity payments constituted income for purposes of determining minimum monthly maintenance allowance under Medically Needy Program. *J.M. and E.M. v. Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services*, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (DMA) 86.

Full amount of Medicaid applicant's Social Security benefits would be included as "available income" and applied to his long-term care costs, even though applicant used portion of his benefits to satisfy pre-existing alimony obligation. *L.C. v. Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services*, 96 N.J.A.R.2d (DMA) 73.

Exceptional circumstances resulting in significant financial distress warranted an upward adjustment in community spouse maintenance amount. *M.G. v. Division of Medical Assistance*, 95 N.J.A.R.2d (DMA) 47.

10:71-5.8 Eligibility under life care and pay-as-you-go agreements

(a) In a contractual agreement where the individual has transferred his available assets to the facility in exchange for full medical care in the institution, the institution has a legal responsibility to provide such care and Medicaid benefits are not payable for the institutional care. However, Medicaid eligibility may exist in the following circumstances (see also N.J.A.C. 10:71-5.4(a)13):

1. When it can be determined that no enforceable contract exists (for example, because the facility is financially unable to fulfill its responsibilities under the contract and all terms of the agreement are thus void), the facility has a legal obligation to refund to the individual any assets which remain from the amount assigned at the time the contract was signed. The individual may be eligible for Medicaid Only as long as all other eligibility criteria (including resources) are met.

2. When a contract is not actually rescinded and the individual retains his or her right under the terms of the contract but, where his or her contract rights for care in the facility are not fully met, Medicaid benefits may be available for those medical expenses not being met by this facility if the individual meets eligibility requirements.

3. When the contractual agreement for care in the facility does not include all of the medical care (for example, is limited to basic room and board), Medicaid benefits may be available for those medical expenses not covered by the contract as long as all eligibility criteria are met.

4. In those contractual situations above in which Medicaid eligibility may exist, the value of in-kind room and board is not considered income.

New Rule, R.1991 d.32, effective January 22, 1991.
See: 22 N.J.R. 7(a), 23 N.J.R. 215(b).

10:71-5.9 Deeming from sponsor to alien

(a) For the purposes of determining eligibility for Medicaid Only for a legal alien (applying for the first time on or after October 1, 1980), the income and resources (see N.J.A.C. 10:71-4.7) of any person who sponsored the alien's entry into the United States will be deemed to the alien. Such deeming applies for a period of three years from the month of the alien's entry into the United States. However, deeming shall not apply to any alien who is:

1. Admitted to the United States under the provisions of section 203(a)(7) of the Immigration and Nationality Act which were in effect prior to April 1, 1980;

2. Admitted to the United States under the provisions of section 207(c)(1) of such Act which became effective March 31, 1980;

3. Paroled into the United States as a refugee under section 212(d)(5) of such Act;

4. Granted political asylum by the Attorney General;

5. Determined to be blind or disabled if such blindness or disability began after the date of admission into the United States for permanent residence; or

6. Sponsored by an institutional sponsor such as an employer or a church.

(b) In the event an alien is sponsored by a person subject to the deeming rules at N.J.A.C. 10:71-5.5, those rules will be used in lieu of the sponsor-to-alien rules.

(c) No inquiry shall be made regarding a sponsor's financial circumstance unless the alien's own countable income and resources indicate potential program eligibility.

(d) Normal income exclusions do not apply in deeming of a sponsor's income to an alien. Additionally, SSI benefits, TANF payments, as well as any other public income maintenance payments are not excluded in sponsor-to-alien deeming.

(e) To determine the amount of income to be deemed to an alien, the dollar amounts in (e)2 and 3 below will be updated annually by publication of a notice of administrative changes in the New Jersey Register reflecting the Federal cost-of-living adjustment to the SSI standards established pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §1382f. The CBOSS shall proceed as follows:

1. Determine the total gross earned (wages and net earnings from self employment) and gross unearned income of the sponsor (and spouse if living with the sponsor).

2. Subtract \$637.00 for the sponsor, \$956.00 for the sponsor if living with his or her spouse, \$1,274 for the sponsor if his or her spouse is a cosponsor.

3. Subtract \$318.50 for any other dependent of the sponsor who is or could be claimed for Federal Income Tax purposes.

4. The remaining amount is deemed as unearned income to the alien.

(f) In the event that a sponsor has sponsored more than one alien, there is no proration of deemable income among the sponsored aliens. The income is fully charged to each alien for which the sponsor has executed an affidavit of support.

R.1983 d.373, effective September 6, 1983.

See: 15 N.J.R. 999(b), 15 N.J.R. 1477(a).

As amended on emergency basis, R.1983 d.593, effective December 19, 1983, operative January 1, 1984.

See: 15 N.J.R. 1733(a), 15 N.J.R. 2171(a).

Deeming amounts increased.

Amended by R.1984 d.566, effective November 28, 1984 (amendments effective January 1, 1985).

See: 16 N.J.R. 2845(a), 16 N.J.R. 3451(a).

Previously filed as emergency rule R.1984 d.289.

(e): amounts of income substantially amended.

Emergency amendment, R.1985 d.714, effective December 27, 1985 (operative January 1, 1986, expires February 24, 1986).

See: 18 N.J.R. 215(a).

Amount of income in (e)2 and 3 raised.

Readopted R.1986 d.74, effective February 24, 1986.

See: 18 N.J.R. 215(a), 18 N.J.R. 565(a).

Emergency amendment, R.1987 d.78, effective December 29, 1986 (operative January 1, 1987, expires February 27, 1987).

See: 19 N.J.R. 245(a).

Amount of income in (e)2 and 3 raised.

Adoption of concurrent proposal, R.1987 d.174, effective April 20, 1987.

See: 19 N.J.R. 245(a), 19 N.J.R. 646(b).

Emergency amendment, R.1988 d.55, effective and operative January 4, 1988 (expires March 4, 1988).

See: 20 N.J.R. 207(a).

Amount of income in (e)2 and 3 raised.

Adopted concurrent proposal, R.1988 d.193, effective May 2, 1988.

See: 20 N.J.R. 207(a), 20 N.J.R. 985(a).

Previously filed as an Emergency Rule.

Emergency amendment, R.1989 d.57, effective December 29, 1988 (operative January 1, 1989, expires February 27, 1989).

See: 21 N.J.R. 207(a).

(e)2 and 3 raised amount to be subtracted.

Emergency amendment expired February 27, 1989. Concurrent proposed amendment adopted and filed February 28, 1989, as R.1989 d.174, effective March 20, 1989.

See: 21 N.J.R. 207(a), 21 N.J.R. 763(a).

Provisions retained.

Emergency amendment R.1990 d.55, effective December 26, 1989, operative January 1, 1990 (expires February 24, 1990).

See: 22 N.J.R. 251(a).

Deeming computation amounts raised.

Adopted concurrent proposal, R.1990 d.177, effective February 23, 1990.

See: 22 N.J.R. 251(a), 22 N.J.R. 954(a).

Provisions of emergency amendment R.1990 d.55 readopted without change.

Emergency amendment, R.1991 d.37, effective December 31, 1990 (operative January 1, 1991).

See: 23 N.J.R. 233(a).

Increase in Medicaid Only eligibility computation amounts at (e).

Amended by R.1991 d.32, effective January 22, 1991.

See: 22 N.J.R. 7(a), 23 N.J.R. 215(b).

Section recodified from 5.7.

Adopted Concurrent Proposal, R.1991 d.169, effective March 1, 1991.

See: 23 N.J.R. 233(a), 23 N.J.R. 1007(a).

Provisions of emergency amendment R.1991 d.37 readopted without change.

Emergency amendment, R.1992 d.84, effective January 22, 1992, operative January 1, 1992.

See: 24 N.J.R. 651(a).

Increase in Medicaid Only eligibility computation amounts at (e).

Adopted concurrent amendment, R.1992 d.191, effective April 20, 1992.

See: 24 N.J.R. 651(a), 24 N.J.R. 1498(b).

Provisions of emergency amendment, R.1992 d.84, readopted without change.

Amended by R.1993 d.402, effective August 16, 1993.

See: 25 N.J.R. 1818(a), 25 N.J.R. 3786(a).

Amended by R.1994 d.428, effective August 15, 1994.

See: 26 N.J.R. 1754(a), 26 N.J.R. 3478(a).

Amended by R.1996 d.46, effective January 16, 1996.

See: 27 N.J.R. 3668(a), 27 N.J.R. 291(a).

Increased amounts in (e)2 and 3.

Amended by R.1996 d.466, effective October 7, 1996.

See: 28 N.J.R. 2779(c), 28 N.J.R. 4480(a).

Amended by R.2000 d.415, effective October 16, 2000.

See: 32 N.J.R. 2565(a), 32 N.J.R. 3844(a).

In (d), substituted "TANF" for "AFDC"; and in (e), substituted "CBOSS" for "CWA" in the introductory paragraph, and increased dollar amounts in 2 and 3.

Amended by R.2004 d.401, effective November 1, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 922(b), 36 N.J.R. 4982(a).

Rewrote (e).

Amended by R.2006 d.133, effective November 6, 2006.

See: 37 N.J.R. 3774(a), 37 N.J.R. 4505(a), 38 N.J.R. 4712(a).

In (e)2, substituted "\$579.00" for "\$564.00", "\$869.00" for "\$846.00" and "\$1158" for "\$1,128"; and in (e)3, substituted "\$289.50" for "\$282.00".

Administrative change.

See: 40 N.J.R. 2276(a).

SUBCHAPTER 6. CASE RECORDS AND FILES

10:71-6.1 Purpose of case records

The case record is a complete record in support of the CBOSS's decisions and actions for each case.

Amended by R.1995 d.651, effective December 18, 1995.

See: 27 N.J.R. 3543(a), 27 N.J.R. 5046(a).

Amended by R.2000 d.415, effective October 16, 2000.

See: 32 N.J.R. 2565(a), 32 N.J.R. 3844(a).

Substituted "CBOSS's" for "CWA's".

10:71-6.2 Contents of the case record

(a) The following items shall be included in the case record:

1. The narrative recording;
2. All medical reports and record of action from the MRT (appropriate cases);
3. All forms related to financial eligibility; and
4. All related correspondence, memoranda and documents except those which are required by law and regulation to be maintained in some other files.

10:71-6.3 Forms applicable to the Medicaid Only program

Forms applicable to the Medicaid Only program (aged, blind and disabled) are listed on page 1 of Appendix A; sample forms follow that list.